WISCONSIN SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN

BIENNIAL REPORT

FOR

BIENNIAL PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1930

STATE BOARD OF CONTROL

OFFICERS

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INSTRUCTORS

P. L. O'NEILL, *Principal*

Literary Department

P. L. O'NEILL	High School
BERTHA BLEEDORN	High School
EYLENE WORDEN	High School and Grammar Grades
NINA WILSON	Grammar and Intermediate Grades
EDWARD WANDTKE	Geography
A. MARGARET UETZ	Intermediate Grades
TOMSYNA CARLYLE	Primary Grades
RUTH BARBER	Kindergarten
CARL ENGLER	Typewriting
SAPHRONIE PETERSON	Primary Cadet
MARY O'BRIEN	Cadet
ARTHUR KOWALSKI	Cadet

Musical Department

ANNA K. MEANS	Piano and Pipe Organ
LAURA ENGLESON	Piano
BLANCHE CORNELL	Piano
VIRGINIA CARTEE ROEPKE	Vocal
HERBERT ADAMS	Orchestra

Industrial Department

HERMAN VOLAND	Weaving
FRED C. HOYER	Manual Training and Tuning
FRED M. BARNETT	Caning, Basketry and Hammocks
L. G. MCCULLOCH	Brooms

Home Economics Department

CLARA CARLSEN	Domestic Science

Physical Department

INEZ HOLMES	Director

Opened 1849

Capacity 75 males, 65 females, total 140

New students admitted, 1929—22; 1930—28.
Average daily enrollment, 1929—120; 1930—137.
Summer School enrollment, 1929—82; 1930—77.
Net Operation and maintenance expense, 1929—$117,097.68; 1930—$124,530.32.
Summer school, 1929—$3,940.08; 1930—$4,839.94.
Field Agency, 1929—$18,349.02; 1930—$19,837.67.
Aid to Blind Students, 1929—$1,939.93; 1930—$2,818.85.
Per Capita cost per week, 1929—$18.38; 1930—$18.42.
Capital Expenditures, 1929—$4,670.33; 1930—$4,885.01.
Farm Products consumed, 1929—$15,065.48; 1930—$10,431.37.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

TO THE STATE BOARD OF CONTROL:

I hereby submit the twenty-fourth biennial report of the Wisconsin School for the Blind, for the year ending June 30, 1930.

Again, as in many former reports I wish to emphasize the fact that this is a school. I do this not only so that those, who have the institution in charge, but also that those who provide the means of carrying on the work, should have clearly in mind the educational purposes of this institution. I wish also to repeat the fact that it is a highly specialized and technical kind of education. On account of the handicap of our pupils the work must be carried on in small groups or with individuals, and large classes are impossible if we desire any kind of effective work.

For this reason the cost is necessarily more than that of ordinary schools. This, together with the fact that our children must be maintained, both as to board, room, laundry, etc., makes a comparison with the ordinary public schools, as far as cost is concerned, absolutely impractical. However, we feel that considering what has to be done, that the expense of running the Wisconsin School for the Blind is very little more than is expended in many of the best public schools of the state. Yet the results obtained and the extent of education given surpasses that of almost every other Wisconsin public school.

In this institution we give a literary course paralleling that of the other public schools of the state, from the Kindergarten through the High School. Our graduates are admitted to the State University, Normal and other colleges of the state the same as the graduates of the high schools in their own communities. In music I think we can truly say that our course is superior to that of any other public school of the state. All our children, as soon as they learn to

read the embossed type, are started on piano and continue on such work as long as they show any ability in such lines. In the Kindergarten they are started in vocal work with the Kindergarten chorus and as they reach the intermediate grades we have a Junior chorus, and in the upper grades a Senior chorus. Those who show vocal ability are also given individual instruction. We also maintain, for that who have talent in that direction, courses in wind and string instruments, and in connection with this work we have an orchestra of thirty to thirty-five pieces.

Music is especially adapted to the education of the blind, and for that reason it is emphasized in this institution. But we attempt to give the music so thoroughly and of such high standards that it is one of the greatest educational features of the school, and we believe we are paving the way for the teaching of music in every public school of the state. Certainly we are teaching our pupils an appreciation of music, and the results obtained show an uplift which should be the heritage of every child of the state, seeing or blind.

In addition to the literary and musical courses we have a very practical course in all lines of Home Economics and Manual Arts. We have our children twenty-four hours of the day and are therefore able to give them practical lessons in home life and home work, and we are able to make our sewing, cooking and other Home Economics subjects a part of their real daily lives. Our work in Manual Arts, such as manual training, broom making, weaving, caning, rush seating, basketry, etc., are all taught not only for the educational value but with a practical view of preparing those who finish the subjects for a life industry. Moreover, on account of the close relation between the school and the work for adult blind, we have not only a guidance for planning but a test for measuring the practicality and efficiency of the work along these lines.

I am preparing a treatise showing the results of their training at the Wisconsin School for the Blind over a long period of years, and within a few weeks will have ready statistics which will show beyond doubt how very efficient has been our work and what a real rehabilitating job this institution has accomplished for those citizens of this state handicapped by defective vision.

We have attained a high efficiency, but if we are to keep the position we now hold we must go forward. To do this requires teachers and officers of unusual ability. Our sources of supply are the trained, experienced teachers of the public school for those who give instruction in the ordinary school subjects. For those who act as house mothers we should be able to obtain trained, refined, efficient men and women. Such people are able to command a good salary, and the State must take this into consideration in making appropriations for these positions.

However, I am sorry to say that the tendency and rulings, both of the Bureau of Personnel and of the Attorney General's office on the present Civil Service laws are a handicap in obtaining the

proper persons for the jobs which we have open. Under their rulings a new employee entering any line of work must start at the minimum salary offered for the classification. Experience elsewhere and efficiency shown in other places is given no credit in the initial salary. Consequently the very qualification which we are seeking to obtain is barred because we cannot take into account experience in filling openings as they occur.

I recommend that something be done to change the law so that in the future we will be able to hire experienced people and make the initial salary such that we can induce people with such qualifications to enter the work. Civil Service laws ought to be a help. Where it is a hindrance the law should be changed to overcome the difficulty.

I spoke above about our children being with us during the entire twenty-four hours of the day. As a consequence we have not only their ordinary school work to plan for but we also must plan for what is ordinarily considered home training—training in the etiquette of society, and also training along moral and religious lines. The blind especially need attention along lines of how to conduct themselves with other people, because the things which are ordinarily picked up by the sighted must be told to the blind child as he is not able to see and imitate the manner and conduct of the best appearing people with whom he comes in contact. This institution has been particularly fortunate in the training of standards for our children. Scarcely a summer goes by that we do not receive four or five and sometimes more reports from home communities in which the manners, standards, conduct and actions of pupils from this institution are contrasted very favorably in comparison with the same characteristics of other members of their own family or even of their community. The backing which we have always received from the Board of Control and from social service and religious organizations of all types has been very helpful in securing these results.

Our children are in constant touch with the seeing people of the city of Janesville through the churches and through welfare organizations, and are being trained continually not only in the ways of ordinary people but in types of conduct and interest in public and vital questions which could be obtained in no other way. We also allow our children to mingle more freely without regard to sex than almost any other school for the blind in America. Other institutions seem to fear bad results from such intermingling. We, however, have had little to complain of along these lines and we feel that the normal atmosphere which is given to our children does much toward bringing about the aim of our institution, that is, to train our children for a normal efficient life.

HEALTH

Among other things necessary for the welfare of the pupils of this institution is the development of a strong and healthy body. This requires care and forethought in planning the menus, consider-

able training and sometimes even insistence in procurring the consumption of food based upon the proper balanced diet; and a constant urge for physical outdoor exercise. Much of this is accomplished by the work of our physical director, but in order that the children should have an appetite for food and the desire for exercise their bodies must be in a healthful condition.

Nothing has done more for the physical welfare of our children than the employment a few years ago of an attending physician and a resident trained nurse. For a large number of years it has been our custom to weigh the children each month and to give them other physical measurements which show the growth and development of their physical strength. Since the regular employment of an attending physician and a resident nurse these figures tell unmistakably the improvement in the health, physical development and general condition of our children. Perhaps a few figures along the lines of treatments and results would bring out emphatically the benefits of the money thus expended.

For the past five years we have vaccinated every pupil of our school who has not been vaccinated within five years prior to entrance. During that time we have vaccinated practically two hundred people and have had not one single case of small pox. We also treat all new pupils entering for the first time with toxin and antitoxin. Every pupil in our school today has been treated. For the last five years we have had but one case of diphtheria and that was a very mild one which was cleared up entirely within ten days. At no time have we ever had even a scare of a diphtheritic epidemic. We also take a blood test of all our children and at the beginning of each year a retest of all who have ever shown any bad symptom and also a test of all new admissions. At the close of the year ending June 30, 1930 we had but one case of inherited syphilis which had not been entirely cured and this was of a young Indian boy whom we are still treating and from whom we hope the disease will be entirely eradicated before he leaves the institution. Not all the people who have left the school were cured, but a very large percentage of those treated showed an improvement and quite a percentage showed an absolute cure. Moreover, our treatments had many excellent results in improving eyesight and in all cases we arrested the further development of the disease and further bad effects on the optic nerve. The improvement in general health and the eradication of the effects of diseases which formerly were not only fatal but very wasteful of the time and money of the State have been such that we feel that the money expended for doctors and nurses has been returned many fold in the benefit to the citizenship of the State.

We still lack provision for a dentist and proper care of teeth. Perhaps the teeth more than any other part of the body add more to the general health and efficiency of the child's future than any other organs. After we have had such wonderful results in employing a permanent physician and resident nurse it seems almost a

waste that the State should delay longer in making provision for dental equipment and providing means for employing a regular dentist to look after the welfare of the teeth of our children. I urge strongly that the recommendations along these lines in the budget which we have submitted be given more than ordinary consideration.

PHYSICAL PLANT

The plant is in its usual good repair and the request for repairs and maintenance for the next biennium, though a little more than that granted in the past two years is about the same as requested from the 1929 legislature. This is an old plant and unless repairs are made when needed deterioration rapid and wasteful soon sets in. It is economy to keep the plant in good repair. Nothing can illustrate this point more forcibly than that of the roof of the Main Building. The style of architecture of this building is such that snow and ice each winter attack the roof with never failing effect. In 1912 this roof was in such condition that it was condemned and a new one suggested as the only means of preventing serious leaks and great damage to the building. However, because we had sufficient money to repair and protect with asphalt and paint, the roof is still intact and doing good service, and is unquestionably in better condition than it was twenty-five or thirty years ago. What is true of the roof is true of all other parts of the building and shows plainly the necessity for adequate appropriations for repairs and maintenance. We have estimated fairly what we think is necessary to keep our plant in good condition and we trust the full estimate will be granted.

The estimates in Miscellaneous Capital are modest and only a few special items need particular mention. The window ventilators at an estimated cost of $1000.00 are to provide proper ventilation in school rooms and in the assembly room, where we find that during the cold weather we either have no ventilation or windows are open, producing a draft and in many cases causing the children to catch bad colds. The matter of dental equipment has already been discussed under the head of Health. The only other item of any consequence which is being added to the request for this next biennium is a request for $2000.00 for lights on the grounds. The addition of these lights would not only aid much in the general discipline of the school, but would give us adequate means of preventing the over-running of the grounds during the summer months by outsiders, who are apt to congregate in this section of the city at that time. I trust these requests will receive careful consideration.

In Special Capital the request for a twenty-car garage is almost a necessity. The time is past when the right kind of help can be kept in the right attitude toward an institution which does not provide adequately for housing of automobiles which are now owned by almost every employee in any department. The State must consider necessary requirements of modern life in every institution, and we trust that our garage will be granted this year. I am again requesting

an appropriation of $10,000.00 for a sun porch which I have asked for a number of years past. An argument for this can be found in any one of my last five biennial reports. The same is true in regard to the request for a hospital and Domestic Science building.

During the past year the cattle under the charge of the State Board of Control have made wonderful showing in exhibits at the large fairs of the United States. These exhibits not only advertise the state institutions and help in the disposal of surplus stock, but they have been a great advertisement for the whole state of Wisconsin and the dairy industry which is carried on so extensively in this commonwealth. The herd at the Wisconsin School for the Blind, though small, is one of the best herds owned by the Board when both the show type and production are considered. This herd is very inadequately provided for in a damp, dark, antiquated barn. I, therefore, made request for a new barn to take care of the wonderful herd which is located at this institution. Our herd is not only considered a very fine show herd but for several years back it has led all Rock County herds of all breeds in a cow testing record of production. Last year we had an average of 483 pounds of fat per cow, and our average net profit over the cost of production was approximately $200.00 for every cow in the herd. Such a herd deserves a decent place to be housed.

There is one other matter for which we have made request in our budget. Our power house is one of the poorest and most antiquated of any power house owned by the state of Wisconsin. The boilers have been in operation here twenty-one years and when we received them they had already served in the old state capitol for several years before the fire. Moreover, the plant is in such a condition and of such a type that changes are impossible, while under the present arrangements there is a vast waste in coal consumption and a vast expense in keeping the plant in repairs. We have recommended at least the beginning of a new plant and hope this, too, will be granted.

The appropriation made by the last legislature providing for a new well and water softener has been released, and this construction is well under way. By the end of the present calendar year we hope that this part of our plant will be completed and in operation. It certainly will be a wonderful improvement in the operation of the institution.

SUMMER SCHOOL AND AGENCY

As I have said in previous reports, there is no part of the work of the Wisconsin School for the Blind which receives more favorable comment and in which we ourselves feel more satisfaction than that done by our summer school. Here we are providing education for eighty odd men and women blinded after school age, whose hope and interest in life had all vanished. We are bringing these people back to a normal philosophical view of life, and in most cases rehabilitating

them in such a way that they are becoming partially, and many fully, self-supporting, self-respecting citizens of Wisconsin. The work has become a national inspiration and many states of the Union are inaugurating similar courses in their schools for the blind.

Almost weekly we receive inquiries and favorable comment upon this work. At the opening of each term the earnestness and the real hunger for learning with which these people come to school, and the real pleasure and satisfaction with which they close their summer course is a matter of inspiration and satisfaction to those in charge. In fact, no one can be present at our closing exercises without feeling a thrill greater and deeper than from any other work in the educational field. I cannot speak too highly of our accomplishments and now that the full $5000.00 has been granted for operation we feel that we can, not only continue the high type of work which we are doing but that in the future we will make even greater progress than has been accomplished in the past.

In connection with the summer school the work of the Agency for the Adult Blind must also be considered and commented upon. The plans and policies of these two divisions of our work so interlock and assist each other that one cannot be considered without also considering the assistance which is given by the other. This interlocking and cooperating of one branch of the work done for the blind in Wisconsin with that of all the others is one of the special features of all the work for the blind of this progressive state. I cannot close the discussion without impressing upon the Board the real efficiency obtained by the policies and plans of the Wisconsin idea of coordinating all the state work for the blind under one head. Several of the other states of the Union, urged on by the results which they have seen in Wisconsin, are now adopting similar methods.

I am attaching to this report, and making a part of it, the report of the director of the State Agency for the Adult Blind, which will speak for itself in detail in regard to the progress of this department of our work. However, I wish to call attention to several very striking features of the report as made by Mr. Parks. You will notice that 50% of all the blind of the state of Wisconsin are sixty years old or over and that 60% are fifty years old or over. It is also very interesting to notice that 26½% are of the real productive age, 21 to 50, while about 12½% are under 21, of school age or under. It is also very interesting to notice that 57½% of the blind of Wisconsin are males and only 42½% are females, which shows very plainly the effect outdoor life and industry has upon the cause of blindness.

One feature of the census report should be borne very carefully in mind. That is, the fact that it is very hard to get a complete and accurate enumeration of the blind anywhere. The federal census is no guide whatever. We are getting better results through our home teachers than through any other source, but there are still blind in the state whom we have not found.

The work of the home teachers also should be noted along other lines. During the past biennium they have made 2676 calls, given 768 lessons and were in contact with 1264 blind people. If the State Agency had no other reason for its existence than the help and cheer which these visits would give it is worth all that it costs just for the social service which it renders.

But the great striking feature of the work for the Agency during the past biennial perhaps is brought out by the figures showing the sales and the amount of raw material furnished the blind workers of the state. The last biennial showed an increase in sales of 100% over the previous biennial. This biennium shows another increase of more than 100% over that reported two years ago. The detail is worth considering. There were sold $32,417.00 worth of rugs, $20,836.00 worth of brooms, $9,200.00 worth of miscellaneous articles, or a total of $62,457.00 worth of goods altogether for the biennium. There were furnished $32,131.00 worth of raw materials. When we consider that there were also many hundred dollars worth manufactured and sold by the blind themselves, much of which was due to the efforts of the Agency in getting the blind in contact with those desiring the goods, and when we also consider that the sales agency sold many hundred dollars worth of goods manufactured at the Workshop for the Blind, in addition to those reported by the Agency, you will notice that our scheme for disposing of products made by the blind in Wisconsin is becoming a very important and a very vital factor in handling the work for the blind of this state. In fact, I can say for this branch of our work as well as that of the summer school that we are blazing the path and showing the way for other organizations in other states along the line of disposing of blind made products.

The employment department has had to undergo quite a radical change in the past biennium. Factory employment is decreasing rapidly. Consequently other openings must be found and other plans made for providing employment for the blind. In the report of the employment secretary for Milwaukee County it is very gratifying to notice that although the number of those employed in factories dropped from thirty, January 1, 1926, to fourteen, July 1, 1930, the total number employed in all kinds of work in Milwaukee County increased from 125, January 1, 1926, to 132, July 1, 1930. Another interesting factor in this employment problem is found in the fact that there are 26½% of the blind population of the state between 21 and 50. This represents the real productive period of our population whether blind or sighted. I was amazed and very much gratified to find that the percentage of the blind population of Milwaukee County employed and earning either quite a percentage or the whole of their maintenance was just exactly 26½%. Of course, there are some in this employed list who are beyond the age of fifty, but there are also quite a number in Milwaukee County between the ages of 21 and 50, as there are in other parts of the state, who are mentally

and physically incapable of employment. And there are others, especially females, whom their relatives will not allow to work, and still others whose financial condition does not make it necessary to work for a living. The situation is so striking that I cannot help to comment upon it and believe I can truthfully say that it is doubtful whether the same proportion of sighted people between the ages of 21 and 50 are today, or at any time, constantly employed in making their own livelihood. If there are any figures necessary to prove the wisdom of establishing an agency of this kind and to prove to the state that the money expended for this department is bringing in adequate returns, these figures certainly prove that fact.

The only other part of the report which I wish to emphasize is the fact that perhaps the clerical service in the office of the director should be increased in order that the statistics and data which are there as a matter of record can be digested and put before the public in an intelligent and convincing manner.

HIGHER EDUCATION

It has been the policy of the state of Wisconsin to supply a $300.00 individual aid to those blind graduates of the Wisconsin high schools who desire to pursue advance work either in music or along literary or scientific lines. This aid is granted not only to graduates of the Wisconsin School for the Blind, but to those whose sight failed either during or after graduation from home high schools, or who have pursued the work of the sight saving classes in the public schools of the city of Milwaukee. During the past biennium this aid has been granted to nine for the year ending June 30, 1929 and to eleven for the year ending June 30, 1930. Altogether the state has expended $1777.53 for the first year of the biennium and $2981.23 for the second year. During the two-year period covered, two have graduated from universities and colleges, one from the Conservatory of Music and one from the College of Osteopathy, Kirksville, Mo. The latter is also a graduate, with the assistance of state aid, of the University of Wisconsin. The sums which have been granted by the State have never been felt by any taxpayer, yet they have made it possible for many bright and earnest students to continue their education and to prepare themselves for some profession or labor along higher educational fields. The results accomplished have been very gratifying, and among those who have been aided is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, who will, no doubt be a member of the 1929 session of the state Legislature. The expenditure is small, but the happiness made possible and the results obtained are well worth the financial outlay.

In the beginning of this report I spoke of the efficiency survey which I am making of graduates of, and others who have attended, the Wisconsin School for the Blind. The findings of this survey will be ready for a supplementary report to the Board within a few weeks. However, I have advanced far enough in the study to realize

that this institution is making real headway in carrying out the aim of the school, and that we are turning out real self-supporting, self-respecting, normal citizens.

In conclusion, I wish to express to the Board my appreciation of their splendid cooperation in formulating the policies and in developing the aims for the care of the blind of Wisconsin.

We have attached hereto the statistical tables which are ordinarily submitted with our biennial report.

Respectfully submitted,

J. T. HOOPER,
Superintendent.

GRADUATES DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS

1929

Clifford E. Conklin	Dunbar
Catherine Evelyn Earle	Janesville
Robert A. Earle	Janesville
Harry Graef	Rhinelander
Mabel Esther Haldiman	Madison
Mary Alyce Novak	Millston

1930

Hazel B. Carter	Richland Center
Mabel M. Christopherson	Racine
Gladys E. Gross	Beloit
Clarence Hanson	Mattoon
Henry Heuser	Waukesha
Lester Loken	Eau Claire
John Mazar	Milwaukee
Peter Miller	Hatley
Herbert Pitz	Neenah
Anne Marie Rasmussen	Neenah
Raymond Revor	Chippewa Falls
Dorothy Mae Schultz	Mauston
Helen S. Scott	Shawano
Catherine T. Simon	Louisberg
William Van Lyssel	Wisconsin Rapids

TABLE I—SHOWING MOVEMENT OF POPULATION AT THE WISCONSIN SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND FOR THE BIENNIAL PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1930

	Year Ending June 30, 1929	Year Ending June 30, 1930
Number present at the beginning of each fiscal year	16	13
Returned from homes and leave of absence	92	105
Original admissions during the year	22	28
Totals	130	146
Graduated	6	15
Left school during year	6	7
Dropped for various reasons	0	1
Out on visit home	118	123
Totals	130	146
Average daily number of pupils	121	130

TABLE II—SHOWING ENROLLMENT OF PUPILS FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS

For the school years	Males	Females	Total
1920–1921	67	44	111
1921–1922	70	52	122
1922–1923	73	57	130
1923–1924	65	51	116
1924–1925	75	59	134
1925–1926	77	62	139
1926–1927	70	66	136
1927–1928	76	68	144
1928–1929	69	63	132
1929–1930	76	70	146
Summer School			
1920–1921	50	.....	50
1921–1922	42	19	61
1922–1923	31	18	49
1923–1924	43	28	71
1924–1925	53	28	81
1925–1926	42	38	80
1926–1927	45	44	89
1927–1928	46	36	82
1928–1929	48	34	82
1929–1930	50	27	77

TABLE III—SHOWING DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTIES OF RESIDENCE OF ALL THOSE WHO ATTENDED THE WISCONSIN SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AT ANY TIME DURING THE BIENNIAL PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1930

Ashland	1	Marathon	6
Barron	1	Marinette	7
Bayfield	2	Milwaukee	17
Brown	2	Monroe	5
Chippewa	3	Oconto	4
Clark	2	Oneida	5
Columbia	2	Outagamie	1
Crawford	1	Polk	2
Dane	9	Portage	1
Dodge	1	Racine	3
Douglas	4	Richland	1
Door	1	Rock	10
Dunn	1	Rusk	1
Eau Claire	3	Sauk	2
Florence	1	Shawano	4
Forest	1	Sheboygan	1
Grant	1	Taylor	1
Green	2	Trempealeau	2
Iron	2	Vernon	7
Jackson	3	Vilas	3
Jefferson	1	Walworth	2
Juneau	1	Washburn	1
Kenosha	8	Waukesha	7
La Crosse	5	Waupaca	1
Langlade	4	Winnebago	5
Lincoln	3	Wood	1
Manitowoc	3		

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
WISCONSIN STATE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

		1928—29		1929—30	
	Operation:				
July 1	Balance in hands of steward	$392.35		$392.35	
	Appropriation 20.17	91,230.00		97,277.00	
	Approp. Chapter 2 and 109	10,508.82		49.08	
June 30	Refunds	143.66		115.37	
	Disbursements		$101,882.48		$96,052.63
	Balance in hands of steward		392.35		392.35
	Balance 1929–30				1,388.82
		102,274.83	102,274.83	97,833.80	97,833.80
	Repairs and Maintenance:				
July 1	Appropriation 20.17			14,380.00	
	Approp. Chapter 2 and 109	2,114.38		13.75	
June 30	Disbursements		2,114.38		14,291.62
	Balance 1929–30				102.13
		2,114.38	2,114.38	14,393.75	14,393.75
	Miscellaneous Capital:				
July 1	Balance	1,046.56			
	Appropriation 20.17			7,125.00	
	Approp. Chapter 2	1,752.65			
June 30	Disbursements		2,799.21		1,850.60
	Balance 1929-30				5,274.40
		2,799.21	2,799.21	7,125.00	7,125.00
	Live Stock Revolving:				
July 1	Balance, overdraft		152.80	3,267.54	
June 30	Receipts	12,245.12		14,503.07	
	Disbursements		8,824.78		13,137.90
	Balance		3,267.54		4,632.71
		12,245.12	12,245.12	17,770.61	17,770.61
	Summer School:				
July 1	Appropriation 20.17	3,500.00		5,000.00	
	Approp. Chapter 2 and 109	490.08			
June 30	Disbursements		3,990.08		4,839.94
	Balance 1929–30				160.06
		3,990.08	3,990.08	5,000.00	5,000.00
	Aid to Blind Students:				
	Balance			1,222.47	
July 1	Appropriation 20.17	3,000.00		3,000.00	
June 30	Disbursements		1,777.53		2,981.23
	Balance 1928–29 only		1,222.47		1,060.07
	Balance 1929–30 only				181.17
		$3,000.00	$3,000.00	$4,222.47	$4,222.47

		1928—29		1929—30	
	Field Agency:				
July 1	Balance	$667.20			
	Appropriation 20.17	15,000.00		$20,000.00	
	Approp. Chapter 2 and 109	2,685.52		1.30	
June 30	Refunds	3.50			
	Disbursements		$18,356.22		$19,824.41
	Balance 1929–30				176.89
		$18,356.22	$18,356.22	$20,001.30	$20,001.30

FINANCIAL STATEMENT—Continued

	Balances	Appropriations and Refunds	Disbursements	Balances
Special Capital:				
Engine Room Floor	$500.00	----------	$379.83 (r)120.17	----------
Fire Loss	76.31	----------	----------	$76.31
Water Supply	----------	(b)$3,000.00	2,523.81	476.19
	$576.31	$3,000.00	$3,023.81	$552.50

(b)Allotted from Sec. 20.17(1d).
(r)Reverted.

FIELD AGENCY FOR THE BLIND REPORT

MR. J. T. HOOPER, SUPERINTENDENT:

To begin with, one feels impelled to congratulate the state of Wisconsin upon the laws in accordance with which the work for its blind people has been organized. All the state activities for blind are conducted under one head.

These activities comprise, the Wisconsin School for the Blind, the State Agency for Adult Blind and the Wisconsin Workshop for the Blind. This closely knit organization is unique among similar agencies doing work for the blind throughout the country. Our plan means a maximum of results with a minimum of expenditure and elimination of misunderstanding and friction.

The State Agency for Adult Blind is really an extension of the Wisconsin School for the Blind. The law which brought it into existence is expressed in broad terms, giving the staff of the Agency plenty of room for initiative and departures from beaten paths. Its activities fall into several distinct lines of work. They are as follows.

First, a complete census of the blind population of the state is kept on file in the form of personal histories.

Secondly, we employ home teachers who are located in convenient centers so that they can readily reach all parts of the state.

Thirdly, there is a special worker whose duty it is to supervise the handwork of the women and who also assists both men and women in becoming established in business or factory jobs.

Fourthly, in order to more fully care for the interest of blind workers, a purchasing and sales agent has charge of the purchasing of raw materials and the marketing of the finished products.

Fifthly, we are constantly called upon to furnish information and to assist in adjusting of the pensions that are granted by the county boards to needy blind people.

Last, but by no means least, the Agency has a very close relationship with the summer school for adults, both in securing students for its courses and in over-seeing their work while they are at the school.

From the above recital it becomes quite apparent why the Agency was established and the need or needs that are being served by those who are responsible for it's work.

CENSUS OF THE BLIND OF WISCONSIN

During the last two years our home teachers have done by far the most effective work in finding blind people. They reported to the Janesville office some 494 new cases. We feel sure that we are now approaching very near to a complete enumeration of the blind of the state. Two years ago the number of blind in our files was 2,627. At present the number is 2,784. The seeming discrepancy in these figures is explained by the high death rate of the blind population.

PERCENTAGE AS TO AGES OF BLIND

	Per cent
Less than six years old	.007
6 to 20 years	.121
21 to 49 years	.266
50 to 59 years	.112
60 years and older	.494

PERCENTAGE AS TO SEXES

	Per cent
Male	.57½
Female	.42½

DISTRIBUTION OF BLIND AS TO COUNTIES

Adams	16	Marinette	44
Ashland	28	Marquette	2
Barron	43	Milwaukee	517
Bayfield	20	Monroe	33
Brown	55	Oconto	38
Buffalo	6	Oneida	23
Burnett	8	Outagamie	74
Calumet	10	Ozaukee	14
Chippewa	59	Pepin	7
Clark	35	Pierce	26
Columbia	53	Polk	22
Crawford	27	Portage	27
Dane	66	Price	5
Dodge	37	Racine	80
Door	23	Richland	19
Douglas	74	Rock	108
Dunn	32	Rusk	11
Eau Claire	58	St. Croix	30
Florence	1	Sauk	50
Fond du Lac	37	Sawyer	6
Forest	8	Shawano	44
Grant	75	Sheboygan	39
Green	26	Taylor	11
Green Lake	8	Trempealeau	30
Iowa	13	Vernon	30
Iron	13	Vilas	23
Jackson	35	Walworth	52
Jefferson	53	Washburn	16
Juneau	37	Washington	14
Kenosha	43	Waukesha	41
Kewaunee	9	Waupaca	25
La Crosse	45	Waushara	18
Lafayette	15	Winnebago	80
Langlade	21	Wood	41
Lincoln	14		
Manitowoc	37		
Marathon	44		2,784

THE WORK OF THE HOME TEACHERS

Although the Agency is employing four home teachers, the same number as here-to-fore, we are now covering all the counties of the state for the first time. Miss Stella Hamilton who is located at Milwaukee has allotted to her, the southern counties of the state. Miss Alice Otto whose headquarters are at Appleton covers the eastern counties reaching over into the center of the state. Eau Claire is the home of Miss Cassandria Carr whose district comprises the western counties, while the northern counties of the State are taken care of by Miss Doris Roepke located at Superior.

During the last year the home teachers have done a great deal of field work besides teaching. They have added materially to the number of blind people in our field files. They have also been able to make more complete the histories of many blind people who were already known to us. Much has been done through them in gaining information as to occupations of the blind throughout the state. As in previous years, so during the last two years, not only braille reading and writing were taught to many blind in their homes, but such handicrafts as chair caning, basketry, sewing and knitting. The home teachers in fact help blind people in their homes in many ways that cannot be catalogued.

STATISTICAL RECORD OF HOME TEACHERS

Total number of social and business calls	2,676
" " " investigations	985
" " " instructions	1,768
" " " pupils	187
" " " people with whom home teachers are in contact	1,264

SALES DEPARTMENT

The sales department of the State Agency for Adult Blind under the direction of Mr. Costigan disposes of most of its finished products through a Sales Company doing business under the name of Wisconsin Blind Products. This company has gradually extended its organization to cover most of the cities of the state.

It buys direct from the State Agency for Adult Blind, rugs, brooms and basketry. The Agency places orders for these products with blind workers living in various parts of the state.

The question is often asked as to the profitableness of the two trades, rug-weaving and broom-making. We have the complete figures of several of our workers. These figures cover total sales and cost of material entering into the product. With rug weavers the figures vary, but they keep within a range of 10%. The one who found rug weaving the most profitable, spent 54% of his total income for raw material and he profited to the extent of 46%. The one who found rug weaving the least profitable, paid 64% for the raw material and received 36% of his labor.

As regards broom-making, we have the figures of but one worker for his complete business. He received as pay for his labor 40% of

the total sales. We feel that these figures are sufficient proof that rug-weaving and broom-making are profitable trades for the blind.

Since January 1, 1930, broom-makers have been furnishing all the brooms for the state institutions. All such brooms are handled exclusively through the Agency and the quality of workmanship and material are guaranteed by us. On the other hand the State Bureau of Purchases is giving us a fixed and reasonable price for the brooms.

There has been a promising development that has taken shape during the last few months. Our Sales Company, the Wisconsin Blind Products, with our advise and co-operation has established a branch in Detroit, Michigan. This branch is handling both Michigan and Wisconsin blind products. The Sales Company is also selling Michigan blind products in Wisconsin, especially emphasizing dust mops. At present the arrangement seems profitable for both states, for Wisconsin blind people are stressing rug-weaving far more than is the case in Michigan, while willow basketry is made only in Wisconsin. Instead of going to the expense of putting in machinery for the manufacture of dust and oil mops, we find it more profitable to buy them from the Michigan workers.

Readers of this report must keep constantly in mind that the Agency does not pretend to handle all that the blind workers of the state produce. This is neither possible nor desirable. We believe that one of the best proofs of our efficiency as an organization, is the placing of a blind worker on his feet in such a way that he can take care of his entire business independently. Most of them that are selling goods through the Agency are also marketing on their own account.

There is a large product in the way of basketry that is being disposed of by blind people all over the state, the amount of which we have no way of knowing, but we know that we are selling basketry materials to many blind workers.

By referring to the figures showing the basketry supplies that we have sold, it will be seen that thousands of dollars worth of basketry has been produced and disposed of. Besides the actual materials used in the manufacture of rugs, brooms, baskets etc., we have assisted many workers in the purchase of looms and broom machinery. There are many ways in which we assist, ways that cannot be expressed in tables of figures.

SALES FROM JULY 1, 1928 TO JUNE 30, 1930

Rug sales	$32,417.26
Broom sales	20,838.65
Special sales	3,155.18
Milwaukee office sales	6,045.93
Grand total sales	$62,457.02

In all fairness to the Agency it ought to be said, that in addition to the above figures, thousands of dollars worth of business came to blind workers through the direct efforts of the Agency staff.

SUPPLIES PURCHASED FOR WORKERS

Rug supplies	$20,179.58
Broom supplies	4,305.74
Basketry supplies	2,425.41
Needle-work supplies	5,220.74
Grand total supplies	$32,131.47

WORK OF EMPLOYMENT SECRETARY

The work of the employment Secretary during the past two years has covered various activities due to the changing conditions in industry and in order to meet the needs of the blind. Considerable time has been given to conferences of a case-work nature, pensions and relief.

Although there has been almost no opportunity for factory employment and a number of factory workers have been laid off, we have kept in constant touch with the industrial situation and with the management in many of the factories. There has been an increase in the number employed outside the factory, as in offices, stores, etc., and also an increase in the number of those who have found lines of work where they are dependent upon their own efforts rather than upon an outside employer. We have been able to furnish more employment for workers in their own homes.

We have had many opportunities to speak before women's organizations. A closer and more organized contact has been made with the high school pupils at the School for the Blind, considerable time being given to the seniors about to graduate, acquainting them with the entire work of the Agency and the employment situation among the blind in general and studying together, and individually various lines of endeavor.

Special sales have continued at the county fairs, the state fair and the Home Show in Milwaukee. For the past two years space for the Christmas sales has been donated by Milwaukee's largest department store. Through its courtesy, splendid advertising and publicity has been given the general work for the blind.

A number of conferences have taken place with a special committee on the blind, appointed by the Milwaukee Lions Club and the Club has signified its desire to actively co-operate with the Agency.

The towel campaign begun early in 1928 has expanded to take in a large part of the state. Much interest has developed as is evidenced by the many repeat orders for towels received. Over 120 women's organizations of the state have co-operated in our steadily increasing sales. During the past two years over 20,000 towels have been sold.

Sales for the biennium, special sales and those made from the Milwaukee office exclusive of rugs and baskets amount to $9,201.11.

The figures given just below show in a striking manner the change that has come over the employment of the blind. It is fair to point out that this change is for the better for it means greater

independence of the blind worker and far greater steadiness in earnings. It will be noted that this change has taken place in the short period of four years. In spite of the present depression, more of the blind are employed in Milwaukee county than was the case four years ago.

EMPLOYMENT IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY

	Jan. 1, 1926	July 1, 1930
Factories	30	14
Workshop, basket weavers	34	34
Badger fibre shop	12	3
Outside of factories (stores, etc.)	12	23
Self employed	32	44
Home workers (including weavers)	5	14
	125	132

We are now in the process of a state-wide survey of the employment of the blind. In the course of a few months we will have practically all the facts in hand and quite thoroughly digested in a form that will be both enlightening and useful to, not only the general public, but more particularly to those interested in work for the blind. It is with keen disappointment that we are obliged to hand in this report with the omission of the state-wide survey of employment.

THE AGENCY'S CONNECTION WITH THE SUMMER SCHOOL

No one feature of the work for the blind justifies the Wisconsin idea more fully than does the summer school. Although there is nothing said in the law regarding our connection with the summer school, it is in fact the back bone of the rehabilitation work done by the Agency. Our home teachers do a large part of the field work in connection with securing of students and in studying and testing their capabilities.

During the summer school we have from 75 to 90 blind people under our direct observation so that we are in a position to assist them in finding their way in the work of the world. We will soon be in a position to estimate the actual contribution that the summer school is accomplishing in the way of the actual rehabilitation of the blind. A description of the courses given in the summer term will be found in the Superintendent's report.

THE PENSION SITUATION

It must be admitted that there is no pension system that is free from abuses. One may almost say flagrant abuses. The pension system for the blind adopted by Wisconsin is no exception to the rule, but the real advantages definitely outweigh the abuses. We are personally acquainted with many who have been given a new lease of courage and hope because of the pension.

In comparing the number of men and women who draw pensions, it is interesting to know that 60% of all persons are men while 40% are women. Of the blind population of the state 57½% are men and 42½% are women. Proportionately therefore, there are

more male than female pensioners. This state of affairs is easily accounted for by the fact that men are more likely to have families depending upon them than are women.

Again, while about 60% of all blind people are over 50 years of age, more than 70% of our pensioners are over 50 years of age so it is evident that old age plays an important part in the matter of pensions.

The pension report for 1929 shows that $318,090.91 was paid to 1286 pensioners and the average received by each pensioner was $247.70.

OBSERVATIONS

In my report of two years ago, I stated that the sales from July 1926 to July 1928 were double those of the previous two years. In this report we are again able to say that our sales have registered a gain of 100% over the previous biennium. I wish to make it clear that the articles represented by our sales are sold on the quality and represent no subsidy, from the state or otherwise.

The Agency is particularly gratified at the self sustaining character of our purchase and sales department. For the most part the articles sold were made by blind people in their own homes and shops, a situation that we believe to be more wholesome and more normal than the gathering of the blind in large groups in a public institution, though we recognize that such public institutions have their place.

The funds used to transact our business in the way of purchases and sales are turned over to the Agency as a revolving fund from interested individuals. This revolving fund has not only been held intact, but has been substantially increased by gifts and income from Automatic candy machines. Our revolving fund will be increased without doubt from the same sources and such increase will mean a greater volume of business.

Respectfully submitted,

W. U. PARKS,
Director.